

1 JOHN NEIL McNICHOLAS, ESQ.
CA Bar No.: 138304
2 McNICHOLAS LAW OFFICE
464 Palos Verdes Blvd.
3 Redondo Beach, CA 90277
(310) 545-0780
4 (310) 546-6831- FAX
john@mcnicholaslawoffice.com
5 Attorney for Defendant,
Aaron Eason
6

7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
8 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
9

10 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
11 Plaintiff,
12 vs.
13 AARON EASON,
14 Defendant.

Case No. 18-00759-CJC-4

**DECLARATION OF BRITTNEY
WELCH IN SUPPORT OF
AARON EASON'S RELEASE
PENDING TRIAL**

15 I, Brittney Welch, do hereby declare under penalties of perjury that the
16 following is true.

17 1. I am a 31 yrs old African American/ Filipino mother of one child studying
18 respiratory therapy near my home in San Diego County.

19 2. I do not choose a political party. I am not a member of any political
20 organization. However I consider myself slightly conservative.

21 3. I was not involved in politics until I enrolled in global studies at Cal State
22 San Marcos and learned about the negativity of the mainstream media toward
23 conservative candidates and elected officials along with favoritism showed for
24 liberal/ progressive candidates and elected officials.

25 4. I am a supporter of President Donald J. Trump and wanted to express my
26 support following his election as our nation's forty fifth president. In early 2017 I
27 saw on social media that a group was planning a march supporting President Trump
28

1 in Berkeley, California. I contacted the web site, and asked if any similar events
2 were planned in San Diego County, where I live.

3 5. Corrine Braune responded that no similar events were planned in San
4 Diego but advised that I could be the organizer of a San Diego event which she
5 would support. I agreed to organize an event .

6 6. I organized the March for Trump on March 4, 2017 in Ruocco Park near
7 downtown San Diego. This was the same label as the Northern California event
8 held in Berkeley on the same day. I was able to include the march within the
9 “Freedom Rally” which was permitted in San Diego and included speakers.

10
11 7. Ms. Braune helped me set up a page on Facebook to advertise the San
12 Diego March 4 Trump. I did not invite anyone to protect speakers or participants
13 in the march.

14 8. Approximately 150-200 people participated in the San Diego march.

15 9. Based upon my organizing the San Diego event, a subsequent event in
16 Berkeley, California, I have become familiar with a group known as “Antifa.” Antifa
17 members engage in disrupting free speech of those with opposing viewpoints using
18 various tactics, which include overwhelming conservative speeches and rallies with
19 drums, horns, music and other noise making equipment, blocking conservative
20 marches and city traffic, as well as inflicting property damage, physical violence, and
21 harassment.

22 10. Antifa members were present in San Diego but were unable to disrupt the
23 rally. The San Diego police performed an excellent job in protecting us. It was a
24 successful event. Aaron Eason was at the San Diego event and was not involved in
25 any confrontational activity.

26 11. I did not participate in a subsequent Bolsa Chica event which was a pro-
27 Trump march. Aaron Eason was at the Bolsa Chica event. I have reviewed film
28 where Mr. Eason attempts to keep peace between marchers and Antifa. See Exhibit

1 9.

2 12. Rich Black informed me that he wanted to organize a subsequent
3 Berkeley event which he called, "Berkeley 2.0," a free speech rally. He asked my
4 group to go to Berkeley to support his event. Mr. Black felt that because Berkeley
5 was so liberal, that the event would turn violent. Based on that belief, Mr. Black
6 intended to build a wall around speakers, record Antifa and have people in
7 attendance who would defend against violence.

8 13. I invited Aaron Eason to assist me and the free speech rally organizers in
9 maintaining order and defending attendees against violence from Antifa members at
10 the April 15, 2017 Berkeley rally.

11 14. When I invited Aaron Eason, and asked him to invite friends to assist in
12 protecting speakers and innocent bystanders from violent acts of those seeking to
13 prevent free speech. All travel expenses for Aaron Eason were going to be paid by
14 the event organizers. I paid for Mr. Eason's hotel room with the expectation that
15 Rich Black would reimburse me.

16 15. I knew that Aaron Eason never laid a hand on anyone at prior events.
17 Aaron and friends had no weapons. Antifa had weapons.

18 16. We were not at Berkeley to fight anyone. Our goal was to protect and
19 deter Antifa from fighting. Video from the Berkeley event shows Aaron Eason
20 peacefully engaging a masked Antifa member in a political discussion regarding the
21 "Trump dossier." See screenshot from video attached as Exhibit 10.

22 17. Violence in Berkeley erupted when Antifa started pushing everyone into
23 a protected area. Antifa still threw M-80s and sprayed mace beyond the protected
24 area. Old people were getting hurt.

25 18. Berkeley police just sat there and watched as Antifa was throwing large
26 rocks, random innocent people were getting hit. I was running away and M-80s were
27 popping by my ear. An Antifa member who was a Berkeley teacher threw his lock at
28 an unsuspecting victim.

1 19. I have communicated with Aaron Eason several times since the San
2 Diego event in March, 2017 and have been in his presence on several social
3 occasions. On a typical day, Aaron Eason was either working on family farm or
4 trying to make money.

5 20. Aaron Eason is not a racist and has never been affiliated with the Rise
6 Above Movement.

7 21. Aaron Eason is a nice, gentle person and not a danger to anyone.
8

9 Dated this 19 day of November, 2018 in Oceanside, County of San Diego,
10 California.

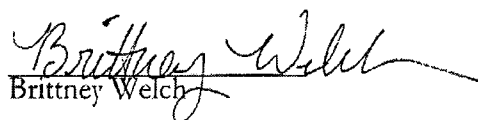
11
12 
13 Brittney Welch
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

EXHIBIT 9



Aaron Eason at Huntington Beach

EXHIBIT 10

Aaron Eason to Antifa supporter: “The dossier was debunked.”

